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Message Text

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43
ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8290
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INFO AMCONSUL ZAGREB UNN

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR, OGEN, YO
SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION REPORT: RIBICIC INTERVIEW
WITH UPI

1. BELGRADE DAILY BORBA JAN 20 CARRIES UPI INTERVIEW WITH VICE-PRESIDENT OF YUGOSLAV PRESIDENTIAL COUNCIL, MITJA RIBICIC AS EXTENSIVE FRONT-PAGE (3 COLUMN, RIGHT) HEADLINE REPORT. INTERVIEW ON YUGOSLAVIA'S INTERNAL DEVELOPMENT, IT INTERNATIONAL POSITION, AND ON CURRENTS WORLD PROBLEMS ALSO CARRIED IN ALL MAJOR YUGOSLAV DAILIES, AND IN 3 AND HALF PAGE JAN 20 TANJUG BULLETIN DESPATCH.

2. ASKED ABOUT DIFFERENCE BETWEEN US AND YUGOSLAVIA ON WORLD PROBLEMS AND WHETHER THEY FOSTER MISUNDERSTANDINGS, RIBICIC SAID YUGOSLAVIA MAINTAINS POSITION THAT DIFFERENCES ON WORLD PROBLEMS SHOULD NOT STAND IN WAY OF WIDEST COOPERATION BILATERALLY IN ALL FIELDS OF COMMON INTEREST. THIS REGARD, HE REFERRED TO STRICT YUGOSLAV OBSERVANCE OF 1971 TITO-NIXON STATEMENT, SAYING YUGOSLAVS BELIEVE DIFFERENCES BOUND TO COME UP BUT YUGOSLAVS PLEAD FOR COMPREHENSIVE ADVANCEMENT AND DEVELOP-MENT OF MUTUAL RELATIONS.

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3. FINAL OF THE

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QUESTIONS ACCORDING PRESS REPORTS ASKED
WHETHER USEFUL PURPOSE WOULD BE SERVED BY YUGOSLAV VISIT OF
US LEADER SUCH AS PRESIDENT NIXON OR SECRETARY KISSINGER.
RIBICIC RESPONDED YUGOSLAV EXPERIENCE SHOWS TITO CONVERSATIONS
WITH OTHER STATESMEN "ABOVE ALL WITH THOSE OF GREAT STATES"
PROVE VERY USEFUL, AND CONCLUDED SAYING "WE FEEL SORRY THAT MINIC
(YUGOSLAV FONSEC) AND KISSINGER DID NOT TALK THINGS OVER IN
NEW YORK."

4. IN JANUARY 21 TALK WITH ACTING ASSISTANT FEDERAL SECRETARY
MIROSLAV KREACIC, CHARGE WAS TOLD YUGOSLAVS BELIEVE
RIBICIC INTERVIEW CONSTRUCTIVE AND HOPE IT WILL RECEIVE WIDE
COVERAGE IN US. CHARGE REPLIED THAT THIS NOT ASSURED BECAUSE
IT WAS A WIRE SERVICE PIECE, AND BECAUSE IT WAS NOT TIED TO ANY
BREAKING NEWS EVENT IN YUGOSLAVIA.

7. EMBASSY WOULD APPRECIATE BEING INFORMED NATURE AND EXTENT
OF COVERAGE THIS INTERVIEW BY MAJOR US MEDIA.
JOHNSON

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